

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 AF-08 /110 W
-----271056Z 129429 /17

R 270930Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5653
USINFO WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2995

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, ENRG, OPEC, SA, TC, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: OPEC PRICE DECISION

REF: ALGIERS 2975-C NOTAL

1. ALGERIAN MEDIA HAVE TO DATE FAILED TO DEVELOP ANY CONSISTENT REACTION TO PEC PRICE DECISION. RECENT EDITORIAL IN LEADING ARABIC-LANGUAGE ALGIERS DAILY "ASH-SHA'B", REPORTED IN REFTEL, OPENLY CONDEMNED SAUDI ARABIC AND U.S., WHILE COMMENTARY IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE FLN PARTY WEEKLY "REVOLUTION AFRICANE" ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN SAUDI AND UAE POSITION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRESERVE IMAGE OF OPEC "VICTORY".

2. IN DECEMBER 22-28 ISSUE, "REVOLUTION AFRICAINE" WRITES:
"EVEN IF DECISION OF TWO OPEC STATES WAS SURPRISING, IT CAN BE EXPLAINED ... BY FACT THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE ARE EXPECTING TWO THINGS IN RETURN AS PROOF OF GOOD WILL OF
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INDUSTRIALIZED STATES: RAPID SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY PALESTINIANS, AND RENEWAL -- THIS TIME FRUITFUL "" OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.... RECENT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DOHA WAS, LIKE IT OR NOT, VICTORY FOR OPEC."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH "ASH-SHA'B" EDITORIAL CLOSELY PARALLELS

ONLY GOA STATEMENT ON DOHA CONFERENCE TO DATE -- INFORMAL
REMARKS OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY AT CONCLUSION
OF MEETING -- COMMENT REPORTED ABOVE DOES APPEAR IN
SUPPOSEDLY AUTHORITATIVE PARTY WEEKLY. UNLESS GOA ADOPTS
MORE CLEARCUT POSITION IN NEAR FUTURE, ALGERIAN MEDIA ARE
LIKELY TO ABANDON SERIOUS EFFORTS AT COMMENT OR EXPLANATION.
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